

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

CONFIDENTIAL

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VC-83 (b) Based on or at USS GARGETT BAY (CVL-83) (c) Report No. 86  
 (d) Take off: Date 19 April 1946 Time (LZT) 1156 (I) (Zone); Lat. 25°-20' N. Long. 129°-02' E.  
 (e) Mission Direct aircraft support of ground troops on Okinawa. (f) Time of Return 1527 (I) (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
<u>TBL-3</u>	<u>VC-83</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8 - 5"(HE) AR 10 - 100 lb. G.P.</u>	<u>Nose plug - .02 base Inst.</u>

## III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>FM-2</u>	<u>VC-83</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>USS PETROF BAY</u>				

## IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	(c) NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
		<u>NONE</u>	<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did Any Part of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (MILES)

## V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		
			<u>NONE</u>		



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 86

## XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Command posts and AA positions near Yambaru (b) Time Over Target(s) 1330 (7) (Zone) \_\_\_\_\_  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 1000 ft. - cumulus - 8/10ths  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy and obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 5  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Mk. 8 gunsight  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)  
Bombs Dropped per Run 4 planes - 1/2 Spacing 30 - 100 Altitude of Bomb Release 1200-1500 y ds.  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Possible command post.		1 TBM VC-85	10 - 100 lb. G.P. 2 - 5" (HE) AR Strafe - 480 rds.	Many	Not observed
2 Buildings in small town.		6 TBM VC-85	40 - 5" (HE) AR 40 - 100 lb. G. P.	Many	Serious
3 Buildings in ravines.		2 TBM VC-85	19 - 100 lb. G.P. 14 - 5" (HE) AR	Many	Serious
4 Caves near Yambaru		1 TBM VC-85	10 - 100 lb. G.P.	None	Not observed
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

1. All of the bombs and rockets hit in the immediate area where the command post was thought to be, but no buildings could be seen from the air and the extent of the damage could not be observed. No fires resulted.

2. Two buildings burned and three small buildings were blown to bits by the bomb explosions. Many other buildings mostly small thatched roof houses, were damaged by hits or near misses but the extent of the damage could not be observed.

3. Three buildings about 20 ft. by 40 ft. and one long shed were totally destroyed. No fires resulted, apparently because the force of the bomb explosion completely demolished the buildings.

4. The bombs did not hit directly in the caves, but hit the face of the cliff where the caves were. The damage to the caves could not be observed.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

REPORT No. 88

## XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

### ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

#### OWN AIRCRAFT

Disposition  
Altitudes  
Speeds  
Approach Tactics  
Use of Cover, Deception  
Angles of Attack and  
Their Effectiveness  
Distance of Opening Fire  
Defense Tactics and  
Their Effectiveness

#### ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Method of Locating, Distance  
Disposition  
Altitudes  
Speeds  
Approach Tactics  
Use of Cover, Deception  
Angles of Attack  
Distance of Opening Fire  
Defensive Tactics

#### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Own Weaknesses  
Enemy Weaknesses  
Offensive Tactics, Own  
" " " " Enemy  
Defensive Tactics, Own  
" " " " Enemy  
Flexible Gunnery, Own  
Escort Tactics  
Fighter Direction  
Use of Radar  
Night Fighting  
Recognition, Aircraft

### ATTACK

#### OWN TACTICS

Method of Locating Target  
Approach to Target  
Altitudes, Speeds  
Approach  
Dive  
Pull-Out  
Dive Angle  
Strafing  
Retirement  
Defensive Tactics  
Use of Jamming

#### DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships  
Concealment  
Searchlights  
Night Fighter Tactics  
Use of Jamming

#### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bombing Tactics  
Torpedo Tactics  
Effectiveness of  
Bombs, Torpedoes  
Selection of Targets  
Fuzing  
Strafing Tactics  
Defensive Tactics  
Use of Radar  
Reconnaissance  
Photography  
Briefing

### OPERATIONAL

Navigation  
Homing  
Rendezvous  
Recognition, Ships  
Communications  
Flight Operations  
Search and Tracking  
Base Operations  
Maintenance

3 VF from VC-33 and 3 VT from VC-33 launched as one group to furnish direct aircraft support of the 10th Army's renewed assault on the Japs entrenched in strong defensive positions on southern Okinawa.

The weather was far from ideal for direct aircraft support. Low hanging clouds which at 1000 to 1500 ft. covered about 3/10ths of the area made coordinated attacks impossible. In addition, the air was hazy and this was aggravated by a thick pall of smoke resulting from intensive air and artillery bombardment. This was especially bad immediately in front of our front lines where visibility was sometimes reduced to 1/2 mile.

This support group was directed to locate and destroy an enemy command post thought to be in area 8364. Lt. PARKER, leader of the group, circled low over the area but could not locate the command post. Realizing that a coordinated attack could not be made because of the low clouds and poor visibility, he secured permission for each plane to attack targets of opportunity in the general area. Later, in making his own attack, Lt. PARKER spotted a ridge which looked like an ideal location for the command post, and he peppered the spot with bomb and rocket hits. Other planes hit buildings hidden in small ravines and buildings in nearby villages with good effect. One plane spotted some caves which might very well have concealed gun positions and hit the cliff just above the cave entrances, with 10 - 100 lb. bombs.

Pilots: Lieut. E. A. PARKER, Jr.; Lieuts.(jg) V. M. SCHUHART,  
C. H. BOWEN, M. BOTMAN, D. O. HANCOCK; Ensigns R. FOREHAND,  
C. W. BUNCH, G. M. ROBERTS.

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

REPORT No.           

**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.  
Use additional sheets if necessary).

**ARMAMENT**

Guns, Gunsights  
Turrets  
Ammunition  
Bombs, Torpedoes  
Bomb Sights  
Bomb Releases

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Radio, Radar  
Homing Devices  
Visual Signals  
Codes, Ciphers

**RECOGNITION**

IFF  
Signals  
Battle Lights  
Procedures

**PROTECTION**

Armor; Points and Angles  
of Fire Needing Further  
Protection  
Leak Proofing

**EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**

Parachutes  
Life Belts, Life Rafts  
Safety Belts  
Emergency Kits  
Rations, First Aid

**NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT**

Compasses  
Driftsights  
Octants  
Automatic Pilots  
Charts  
Field Lighting

**INSTRUMENTS**

Flight  
Power Plant

**OXYGEN SYSTEM**

**CAMOUFLAGE AND  
DECEPTION DEVICES**

**STRUCTURE**

Airframe  
Control Surfaces  
Control System  
Dive Flaps  
Landing Gear  
Heating System  
Flight Characteristics  
At Various Loadings

**POWER PLANT**

Engines  
Engine Accessories  
Propellers  
Lubricating System  
Starters  
Exhaust Dampers

**HYDRAULIC SYSTEM**

**ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**

Auxiliary Plant  
Lights

**FUEL SYSTEM**

**FLIGHT CLOTHING**

**MAINTENANCE**

**BASE FACILITIES**

Plane Servicing Equipment  
Personnel Facilities

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

**H. VERNON ENEY, Lt., USNR, A.C.I. Officer.**

**M. S. WORLEY, Lieut., USNR.**

**4/27/45**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

**Squadron Commander.**